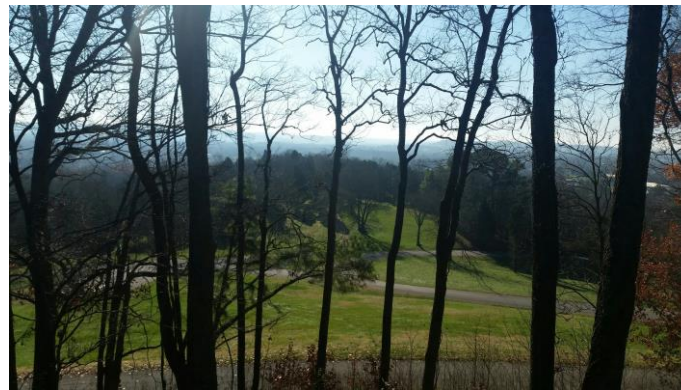


People

Parks

Nature

Connecting



MAURY COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION

2015 Annual Report

WELCOME

Maury County is presently experiencing significant growth. While the economic boost to our county's economy in terms of additional housing and increasing population is most welcome, there is a corresponding rise in the demand for recreational land and services.

In our Master Plan, we identified three of the most critical issues facing our communities: **1) declining community health; 2) the need for preservation of open land/space to reduce urban sprawl; and 3) the need for conservation of our natural resources.** Working on such issues dovetails with our department's mission to "provide recreation and educational opportunities, services and programs to expand our community involvement, create a higher standard of living and to enrich and enhance the lives of our citizens." **As more research points to the benefits of the natural environment, the role of parks takes on a greater significance than ever before.**

In 2015, MCP&R chose to partner with several agencies in the Team of Mules initiative to combat obesity and create healthy habits, as well as fostered a partnership with Farm Credit Mid-America to hold a Home & Garden Show which helped to fund an extension of the nature trail in Maury County Park.

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Al Ray
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Park Supervisor

Wayne Lindsey
(931) 375-6104

Recreation Specialist

Michelle Kenley
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Park Secretary

Bethany Seale
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Main Line

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"[L]OCAL PARKS CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES, BRING DIVERSE POPULATIONS TOGETHER AND SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP" - BARBARA TULIPANE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NRPA



Fall Color in Maury County Park

The 2015 Year of Public Input allowed us, with your help to identify what we do well and how we can offer even more opportunities to fight obesity, provide safe, fun and attractive facilities, and to help educate our children about the environment and our role in keeping our natural resources intact.

In keeping with our need to expand to meet increased demand, a development plan is in the works for the recent land acquisition off Iron Bridge Road in Columbia, as yet unnamed. Bordered by the Duck River and in the middle of the new Adventure Tourism District, this land holds the promise of many exciting possibilities for our community.

As we become more active with outreach, events and programs, we look for volunteers to help! Please connect with us online at www.maurycounty-tn.gov or like us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MauryCountyParksandRecreation.

WHO WE ARE

“ONCE DESTROYED, NATURE’S BEAUTY CANNOT BE REPURCHASED AT ANY PRICE” ~ ANSEL ADAMS

People, Parks & Nature

STAFF & PARK BOARD

Maury County Parks & Recreation is comprised of a staff of nine (9) full-time employees, one (1) part-time employee and some seasonal employees as needed. The Park Director, Al Ray, and Park Supervisor, Wayne Lindsey each have over 10 years of experience in park supervision and management. The maintenance staff, Carl Moore, Andy Hartman, Wayne Brooks, Greg Boyd, and Bart Jones have worked in the industry for a combined 76 years! The Recreation Specialist, Michelle Kenley, has been with the department for five (5) years. In late 2015, Bethany Seale was brought on board as the Park Secretary. Frank Watson is the only part-time employee with eight (8) years with the department.

Maury County Parks & Recreation is overseen by a seven-member board. The Maury County Park Board Commission is comprised of volunteers from different areas of community who serve staggered 3-year terms. Currently, Bill Marbet serves as the Chairman, Benny Bolton as Vice Chairman with Linda Kukendall, Cindy Johnson, Eddie Ables, David Skillington and Randy Floyd as members. The meetings are quarterly and open to the public. Applications for board seats are taken as vacancies become available.

FACILITIES

Maury County Parks & Recreation has over 1,000 acres of park land to manage throughout Maury County. Maury County Park and Chickasaw Park are both located in Columbia. Williams Spring Park is in Mt. Pleasant. Jerry Erwin Park is in Spring Hill, and Hampshire Park is a shared facility with Hampshire Unit School in Hampshire. The newest park land off Iron Bridge Road in Columbia has yet to be named or developed.

In all, Maury County Parks & Recreation manages Lindsey Nelson Stadium, a multi-purpose field, a baseball field, an equestrian center including two arenas, livestock stalls and exhibit barn, the Baker Building and Exhibit Conference Center, two log cabins, 14 pavilions, several playgrounds, a couple of observation decks, an arbor, three paved walking trails, a motorized trail, and a natural surfaced trail with outdoor classroom.



Knob Creek at Chickasaw Trace Park

WHAT WE DO

Much of what we do is maintain passive recreational park land, meaning recreation that requires no administration or scheduling. However, many events are held in our parks, hosted by MCP&R and by others. Several programs were also offered in 2015.

Events

Many events in our parks are organized by other organizations. In Maury County Park, the **Mule Day** festival is organized by the Maury County Bridle & Saddle Club, and the **Maury County Fair** is put on by the Maury County Fair & Expo Board. The **Band Contest** hosted by the Band Booster Club of CHS is held annually at the Lindsey Nelson. Since Maury County Park is a popular venue for 5k races as fundraisers for groups like the Columbia Soccer Association, in 2015, a 5k course was plotted and certified by USA Track & Field (USATF). Chickasaw Trace Park is home to the **Columbia Cycling Club's 15k trail run** and mountain bike race, as well as part of the annual **Jailbreak Triathlon**. William Springs Park hosts the annual **Classics for a Cause Car Show**.

In 2015, MCP&R organized the **July 4th Park After Dark Celebration** and fireworks display, the **Arts in the Park** show, and with Farm Credit Mid-America, the **Maury County Home & Garden Show**.

Programs

Two programs were offered in 2015 by Maury County Parks & Recreation. In January, MCP&R partnered with the Wellness & Aquatics Center to promote the **Team of Mules** initiative to help Maury County lose the weight equivalent of a team of mules. MCP&R provided the space for a kickoff celebration and created a **Couch to 5k program** for beginners with the end goal of running the Mule Kick 5k on Mule Day. In the early fall, a **walking group** in partnership with the Friends of Maury County Parks was formed. In November, the **Nature Storytime** program was launched in partnership with the Maury County Children's Library that provided free nature themed stories and crafts in the park.

All the programs proved popular. MCP&R has since launched the **Healthy Strides Series** race & fitness activity website, and the Nature Storytime has become a regular monthly program for MCP&R.



PARK USAGE

Top Pavilion Use in 2015

1. Kiwanis (78)
2. Bridle & Saddle (55)
3. Rotary (52)
4. White Oak (39)
5. Jaycee (36)
6. Jr. Order (34)
7. Barker (33)
8. Hanson (31)
9. Civitan (30)
10. Bailey (26)
11. Knob Creek (19)
12. Rattle & Snap (16)
13. Hampshire (11)

Kiwanis = 9,571 visitors
White Oak = 4,944 visitors
Bridle & Saddle = 3,327 visitors
Jaycee = 2,755 visitors

Park Visitors

Maury County Park

<i>Pavilions</i>	24,828
<i>Buildings</i>	5,576
<i>Athletics</i>	14,282
<i>Events</i>	75,400
Park sponsored – 6,100	
NonPark sponsored – 69,300	
<i>Programs (2)</i>	80

Chickasaw Trace Park

<i>Pavilions</i>	1,900
<i>Cabin</i>	800
<i>Events</i>	1,200
<i>Camping</i>	234

Williams Spring Park

<i>Pavilions</i>	3,896
<i>Events</i>	750

Hampshire Park

<i>Pavilion</i>	530
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OUR FRIENDS, PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

Partnerships and volunteers are extremely important to MCP&R to help organize and fund events and programming, as well as to advocate for parks. MCP&R was proud to assist several students in their TN Promise requirements, and to partner with two Eagle Scout recipients. MCP&R's newest partner is Farm Credit Mid-America in the Maury County Home & Garden Show.

Friends of Maury County Park

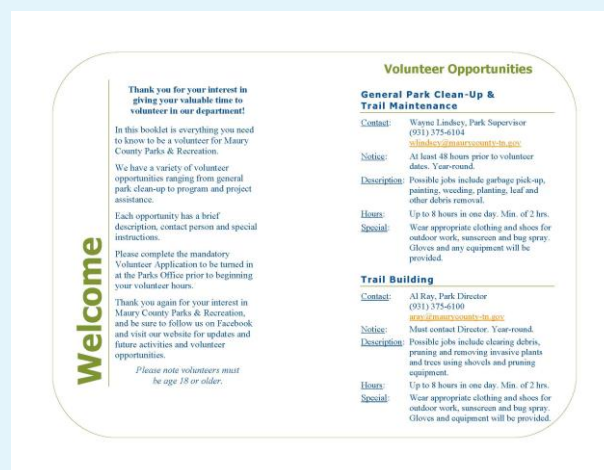
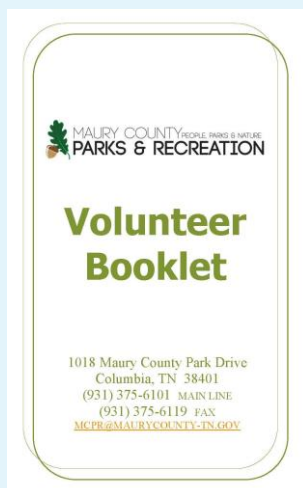
The **Friends of Maury County Park** is a non-profit organization that assists MCP&R with the fulfillment of our mission. In addition to providing volunteers to help with events and programming, the Friends group receives charitable bequests and donations and helps to spread the word on activities held in our parks. The Friends put in an average of 400 hours of volunteer time per year, and raise between \$2,000 and \$4,000 annually for programming needs. To learn more about becoming a Friend, log onto www.maurycounty-tn.gov.

Partnerships

Partnerships are an immensely valuable part of MCP&R, and our partners offer many diverse activities and events in our parks. The **Columbia Cycling Club** maintains over 8 miles of trails in Chickasaw Trace Park and hosts several annual events there. The **Mid South Live Steamers** club maintains all the railroad tracks, a unique offering in our region, in Maury County Park and gives free rides to the public during their annual club meets. The **Boy Scouts** and **Girl Scouts** have provided many amenities in our parks as scout projects. In 2015, two Eagle Scout projects were done in Maury County Park – marking the paved walking trail and extending the nature trail.

Volunteers

MCP&R is a proud supporter of the Tennessee Promise initiative, and was pleased to offer several young people 18 and older the opportunity of completing their service hours assisting with park projects like trail clean-up, park clean-up, trail-building, and assisting with events and Programs. A volunteer booklet is available for download from the park website at <http://www.maurycounty-tn.gov> that includes the volunteer job descriptions, contact person, and a short volunteer application.



Train Depot at Maury County Park

OUR BOTTOM LINE

Maury County Parks & Recreation does not fund itself through the revenues it collects from facility reservations. That money is deposited into the County's General Fund from which several departments are funded, including the Parks.

Revenue

PAVILIONS

Maury County Park has eight (8) pavilions for reservation. Chickasaw Trace Park has two (2) pavilions. Williams Spring Park has three (3) pavilions and Hampshire Park has one (1) pavilion for reservation. Pavilion reservations make up 39% of the total revenues.

BUILDINGS

Maury County Park has two (2) buildings for reservation – the Baker Building and the Exhibit Conference Center. Chickasaw Trace Park has one (1) building – the Derryberry Log Cabin. Building reservations make up 7% of the total revenues.

ATHLETICS

Lindsey Nelson Stadium is used by Central High School for soccer and football and by Whitthorne Middle School for football. The stadium is also used for the annual Band Contest and for other events. Fees for stadium use make up 50% of total revenue.

EQUESTRIAN ARENAS

The Walking Horse Arena and the Western Arena in Maury County Park, along with the Skillington Barn and Stall Barns are available for reservation. Fees from the equestrian areas equaled 4% of total revenue.



Bridle & Saddle pavilion



Lindsey Nelson Stadium

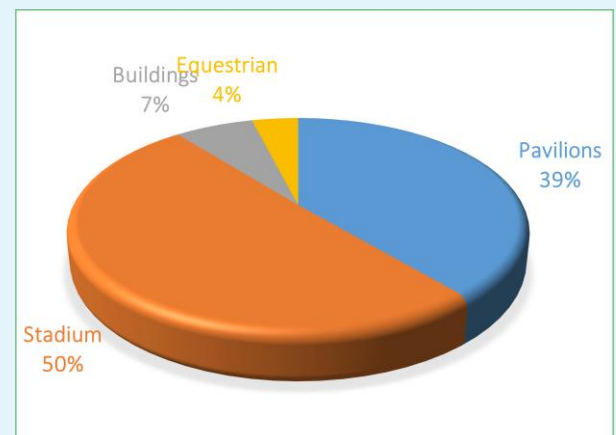
Maury Co. Park

Revenue Breakdown

MCP&R receives revenue from park facility reservation based on a fiscal year. These numbers represent revenue between 7/1/14 – 6/30/15.

Pavilions	\$12,600 (39%)
Buildings	\$2,175 (7%)
Stadium	\$16,364 (50%)
Equestrian	\$1,275 (4%)

Total Revenues = \$32,414

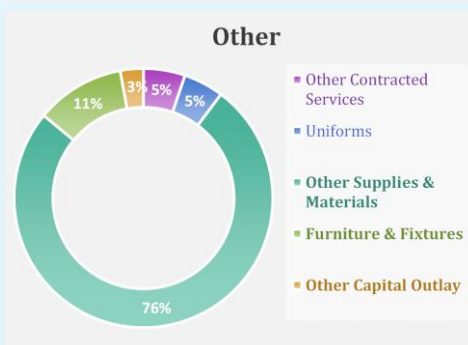
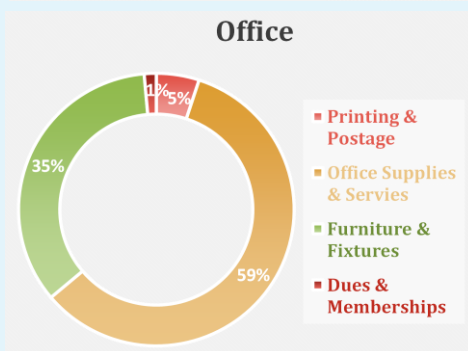
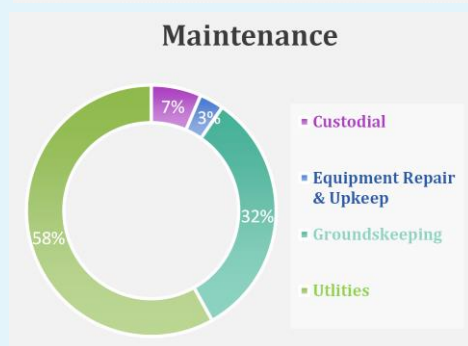
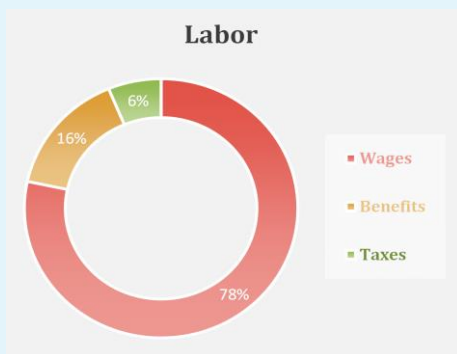


HOW WE MAINTAIN

Expenditures Breakdown

The FY 2014-2015 Operating Budget for MCP&R = \$718,131

Labor	\$507,769
Maintenance	\$160,048
Office	\$ 4,942
Other	\$ 9,693



The four main expenditures from the MCP&R operating budget fall under Labor, Maintenance, Office and Other. Capital improvements, projects and grant monies are not reflected.

Expenditures

LABOR

Labor is our biggest expense. The FY 2014-2015 budget specified wages at \$397,733 and benefits and taxes at \$110,036 for a total \$507,769 for nine (9) full-time employees, one (1) part-time employee and various seasonal employees. Labor is approximately 70% of our operating budget.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance includes building, lights, vehicle and equipment repair, grounds keeping supplies, custodial supplies, rentals, field maintenance and upkeep, which may include contracted services, and utilities. Maintenance is 22% of the operating budget.

OFFICE

Office expenses include dues and memberships, postage, printing and forms, office supplies, and furniture, and some contracted services. Office expenditures equal less than 1% of the operating budget.

OTHER

Other expenditures include uniforms, capital outlay, and other supplies, materials and contracted services which do not fall into the other three categories. Other expenditures are approximately 1% of the operating budget.



Monsanto Observation Deck

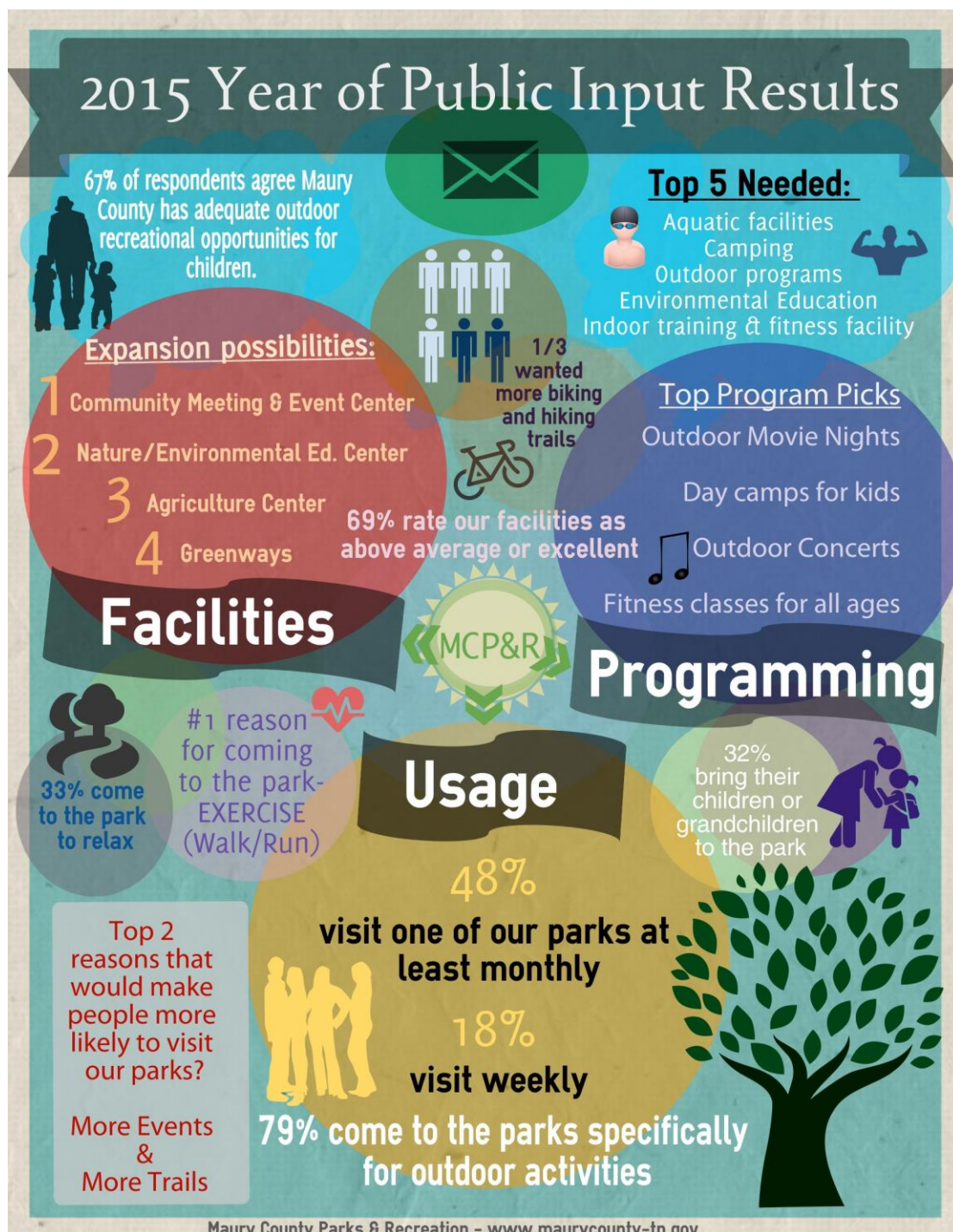
Maury Co. Park

WHAT YOU SAID

The value of parks is in the value assigned by its users

Public Input

Four surveys were conducted over the course of 2015. Here are the results:



LOOKING AHEAD - 2016

GRANT

The State of Tennessee has a new LPRF/RTP/LWCF grant cycle coming up in 2016. According to the input received last year, the top four facilities needed are [additional aquatic facilities](#), [campgrounds](#), an [environmental education center](#) and an [indoor training & fitness center](#). Look for additional opportunities to give input on specific project ideas in the first quarter of 2016.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

We heard your requests for additional recreational programming and are poised make many of your suggestions a reality. **One of the major goals for 2016 is to increase program offerings to at least two (2) per month, and increase event offerings to at least two (2) per quarter.**

Programs

Some year-round programs we will be offering include the *Healthy Strides Series* race and fitness activities inside our parks and in our local communities. The monthly *Nature Storytime* combines reading with learning about the outdoors, as does the launch of the MCP&R *Park Packs* - small backpacks filled with activities, games and stories with a back-to-nature focus. These will be available for check-out from the Park Office. Also scheduled is a week-long *geocaching* event inside our parks. Several *hikes* throughout the year, two *animal shows* and a couple of *family movie nights* in the park are expected in 2016.

Events

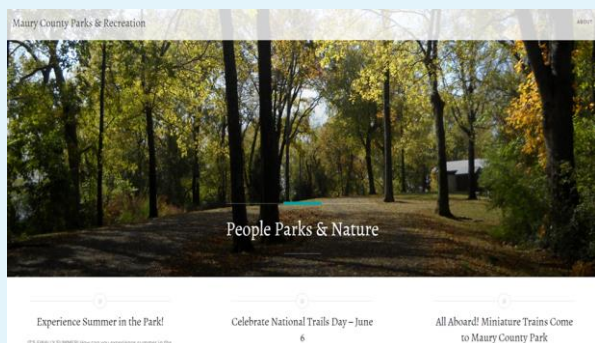
For the second year, MCP&R will host the Maury County Home & Garden Show, a free community event that benefits park projects. In addition to the National Trails Day event on June 1st and the Park After Dark Celebration on July 4th, a few new events are in the planning stages.

OUTREACH

As part of our continuing effort to reach every audience, foster partnerships and collaboration whenever possible, MCP&R will double its outreach efforts by attending meetings, providing an educational in-service presentation, and developing new partnerships through service and membership.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Another major goal is to improve communication, and social media is a large component of that plan. An updated website with connections to the new blog, specialty websites along with a small advertising budget will help MCP&R connect with the community.





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MAURY COUNTY PEOPLE, PARKS & NATURE
PARKS & RECREATION

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